

March 8, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harris County Reports Additional Presumptive Positive Case of COVID-19

Houston— Harris County Public Health (HCPH) is reporting an additional presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in Harris County. This travel-related case is associated with the known group from the M.S. A'sara cruise (traveling to and from Aswan, Egypt). The individual is a female, between 60-70 years old, and is from the unincorporated area of Northwest Harris County, outside the City of Houston. The test result was processed at the Houston Health Department and is considered presumptive positive for COVID-19 (test will be processed by CDC in Atlanta for official confirmation). The immediate risk to Harris County remains low as cases in Harris County are all travel-related and there is no evidence of community spread at this time.

This individual is stable, has been quarantined, and is continuously being monitored by HCPH. HCPH routinely investigates infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. Epidemiologists have been performing contact investigations with all individuals associated with this cruise and will follow-up with anyone that interacted with these individuals if they believe they may be at risk of infection.

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread through respiratory droplets. Harris County residents are reminded to take the same measures that are recommended annually to prevent the spread of the flu and other respiratory viruses.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Keeping a sick child at home prevents the spread of illness in the school and community and allows your child an opportunity to rest and recover.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

By working together, we can try to slow down the transmission of the spread of COVID-19. If you feel sick and believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your health care provider (call before going), describe your symptoms, and travel history or contact with an individual who testing positive for COVID-19.

While HCPH understands residents may be concerned, [information so far](#) suggests that most people who have become infected with COVID-19 only experience mild to moderate symptoms

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

Follow HCPH on Twitter [@hcphtx](#) and like us on [Facebook](#)

and fully recover. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. People at higher risk for serious complications are the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

HCPH does not recommend that healthy individuals wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. Residents should only wear a mask if recommended by a healthcare professional.

For updates on COVID-19, including health tips, fact sheets, case counts, and rumor control are available on www.ReadyHarris.org and the www.hcphtx.org.

###

HCPH is the local public health agency for the Harris County, Texas jurisdiction. It provides a wide variety of public health activities and services aimed at improving the health and well-being of the Harris County community.

Follow HCPH on Twitter [@hcphtx](https://twitter.com/hcphtx) and like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hcphtx)